

NEWSLETTER

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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President: Alan Stuart
Secretary: Tom Clarke
Newsletter Editor: Pat Carlton

The aims of the club are:

- *To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat*
- *To encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity*

Birds Australia - Southern NSW and ACT Group invites you to attend.....

"SEABIRDS - Do we hear the sounds of silence.....?"

**27th April, 2002 at 1.30 pm
Norman Nock Lecture Theatre,
Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards, 2065**

Guest speakers:

Eric Woehler, Australian Antarctic Division: *an international perspective on population trends and the environmental signals seabirds are sending us.*

Barry Baker, Environment Australia: *a national overview of seabird status in Australia*

Harry Battam University of Wollongong: *Albatrosses - an energetic perspective.*

Peter Fullagar, Hon Research Fellow, CSIRO: *The Montagu Island story..*

Tori Wilkinson, Environment Australia: *Australian Government Policies - "The way Ahead."*

Cost: Student/other concessions: \$15* Birds Australia Members: \$20* Others \$25*

Registration by 22nd April.

Expressions of Interest and/or request for Registration forms, should be directed to:

"Seabirds," Birds Australia Sydney Office, PO Box 1322, Crows Nest 1585

Ph: 02 9436 0388, Fax: 02 9436 0466, e-mail: rosella63@bigpond.com

A Birds Australia Seminar

in conjunction with the AGM of the Birds Australia-Southern NSW and ACT Regional Group.

Proudly Sponsored by the Wildlife Preservation Society.

Articles for our newsletter are always welcomed. Closing date for next issue: 31 May 2002

Please send your contributions to: Pat Carlton, 29 Wallaroo Road, East Seaham 2324

Ph: 02 4988 6026 Email: pcarlton@optusnet.com.au

President's Column

HBOC's monthly Hunter estuary wader surveys started in April 1999, so we've just now completed 3 full years of them. This has been a fantastic effort and one of which we all can be very proud. And it has really been something to which a great many members have contributed. Over the three years, 58 people (what a fantastic tally!) have participated in at least one of the surveys. Additionally, there are some more folk who have helped to carry out the corresponding surveys at Swan Bay in Port Stephens. So, well done to lots of you, and special thanks to the stalwarts who turn up most months.

And I'd add that you are most welcome to join in on any future survey. If you don't feel confident about your wader IDs, that doesn't matter – coming along on a survey is a good way to learn, with several willing mentors usually present.

In early March, four of us from HBOC travelled to Cowra to attend the BIGnet (Bird Interest Groups Network) meeting there. It was an exceptionally well attended and productive meeting. I think it is great that BIGnet is finding its way again after drifting somewhat for a couple of years. The recovery started last year when HBOC hosted a very positive meeting. The Cowra meeting had as its major theme, the decline that has occurred in the numbers of dry woodland birds. There was a workshop held on the Saturday afternoon with seven speakers including representatives from Landcare, Greening Australia and the Cowra Council. We also heard about what is being planned for rehabilitation projects in the local area – this included a presentation on what will be done with the funds raised in the 2001 Twitchathon (which amounted to around \$14,000). The workshop was open to the public and quite a number of local people attended it, which was a tremendous outcome. In all, there were over 60 people at the workshop.

\$10,000 of the Twitchathon funds have been matched by the Australian National

University and will fund a student who will try to collate what is known about the existing remnant dry woodland areas around Cowra and recommend some specific actions. The remaining \$4,000 will be used to help get some of those actions underway.

Jim Downey, the new CEO of Birds Australia, attended the BIGnet meeting, and one of the items discussed was how Birds Australia and regional bird clubs (such as HBOC) can best work together for the benefit of birds. Birds Australia undertakes bird studies (e.g. the Atlas) and bird habitat conservation initiatives at the national level whereas we and the other clubs do similar things at a local level. Its important there be no dilution/ duplication of effort (it's hard enough to get things done as it is!) and equally we don't want things to fall between the gaps. We decided at the meeting that a smaller group would convene and discuss whether some form of MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) could be developed that defined the roles. HBOC will be part of the discussions about an MoU. My hope is that we can find a way such that Birds Australia will be able to say that they speak on behalf of the members of regional clubs, when they raise matters of national importance for birds. This will increase their political clout, and therefore will increase their chances of success.

Some news that we've just received is that HBOC missed out on the Coastcare Grant that we applied for to rehabilitate Stockton Sandspit. The good news is that some of what we wanted to do there is happening already, courtesy of a Green Corps group organised by the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project. We'll now have to work out how to make the rest of the proposed actions occur. For now at least, we can be happy that the incursion of even more mangroves is being prevented.

Happy birding

Alan Stuart
almarosa@bigpond.com

HBOC Raffle - Great Prizes!

Enclosed with this newsletter is a book of 10 raffle tickets. I'd like to ask you to try to sell these to your family, friends, neighbours, workmates. The prizes are very good and a ticket represents great value for money. The raffle will be drawn at HBOC's June 12 club night which will be held at the Wetlands Centre. The winners will be notified as soon as possible afterwards (if they are not present at the meeting) and the results also will be published in the July newsletter. Please return the ticket stubs and payment, and any unsold tickets, in time for the draw to be made. You can do this by handing them to Di Johnson, Rowley Smith or me at any Club meeting or outing, or by posting them to The Treasurer, HBOC, P.O. Box 24 New Lambton NSW 2305. And if you want more tickets to sell, let us know and we'll happily supply them. The proceeds will be used by HBOC for special projects. The Committee has a number of such projects in mind - we'll see how much money the raffle raises before deciding which one(s) will be tackled.

Alan Stuart

A Green and Birdy Diary

Introduction

Members of HBOC have been invited by the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project to advise and help with the project to restore the mudflat area at Stockton Sandspit for use by migratory waders. A Greencorps team of ten young people and their supervisor will be working at the site each Thursday OR Friday for the next six months. With our help and guidance they will learn about the Kooragang Nature Reserve, the Ramsar Convention, reasons for the restoration project, how to identify a few birds and something of their life histories, how to make field notes and fill in Atlas and Club data sheets. We will learn about the Greencorps organisation and, best of all, have some real contact with young members of our society who are striving to get some work experience. I understand that Greencorps workers are paid, but the job lasts only six months and then they are back looking for work.

Members of HBOC have been involved with this project from the outset and have worked in an advisory capacity with the Kooragang Wetland

Rehabilitation Project which is responsible for work on the site and National Parks and Wildlife Service which are the overall governing body.

The Greencorps Team:

Supervisor: David Jenkins

Members: Jackie Courville, Melissa Coppard, Sean Ploder, Scott Mason, Shane Neilsen, Trent McMurray, Kath Keeley, Allison Smith, Sam Epstein, Clayton Noble.

The HBOC Team so far: Chris Herbert, Ann Lindsey

1st February, 2002

Chris Herbert and I met with Peggy Svoboda, Kooragang Wetlands Rehabilitation Project, Mike Murphy, NPWS, Roland Bow, Dept. of Fisheries and David Jenkins, supervisor of the Greencorps team, to walk over the site and make sure that we were all clear about the planned work. At this stage, we have permission to remove small mangroves from a designated areas on the mudflat and in the salt marsh, clear the beach of debris, remove bitou bush and *Juncus acutus*, and plant a screen along the track. Some areas will be slashed by NPWS. A permit from Fisheries to remove mangroves and a Revision of Environmental Factors from National Parks are in our hands.

Ann Lindsey

8th February

The team and I started with some birdwatching as the birds were still on the roost site despite the fact that the tide had started to fall. With the telescope we had excellent views of Eastern Curlews with their outrageously long, decurved bills and long legs.. A few Bar-tailed Godwits roosted amongst them, but it was too difficult at this stage to make too many distinctions. However, the endemic Red-necked Avocets were starting to wake up so we could see their upturned bills and deep auburn heads very well indeed. We were able to compare them with the other non-migratory wader, the Black-winged Stilt, which is of similar size but is a black and white bird with striking long, red legs.

Then it was time to head down to the mudflat as the tide had receded enough to begin removing mangroves from the birds' feeding, and one time, roost area. Although one would not normally want to remove mangroves, it is a priority for Stockton Sandspit as they are moving onto mudflats and into the salt marsh. These areas are the habitat of migratory waders, birds which, by and large,

require an open aspect so that they can fly off if any perceived danger approaches.

We started pulling the mangrove seedlings which came out fairly easily. Then we moved into the larger shrubs with Chris and David swinging mattocks with some gusto. As we sweated in the humidity, David reminded us of the safety issues: drink plenty of water, watch our backs, make sure we were not being bitten by mosquitos, and spread out so that we did not accidentally hurt each other. I left by lunch time totally exhausted but elated that so much had been achieved.

Ann Lindsey

14th February

We met at the Stockton Sandspit again this morning. The tide was well in and many birds were already roosting in the lagoon. We began by reading the noticeboards about the Kooragang Nature Reserve. The Sandspit is but one small patch of the whole reserve which includes Fullerton Cove, parts of Ash Island, the main high tide roost which we call the "Dykes", a large area on Kooragang Island proper and the "Tomago" site. More and more birds were flying in as the tide rose and by the time we started viewing them, their heads and one of their legs were well and truly tucked up indicating that most were sound asleep. As always, one or two remained awake ready to give alarm. I asked the young men and women to try their hand at counting the birds. Four counted the Red-necked Avocets and came up with 400 individuals, four counted the Eastern Curlews of which there were 202, two counted the 12 Australian White Ibis. At this stage all members of the group can now identify these species without too much difficulty. In addition Shane counted and correctly identified the 18 Chestnut Teal. He and I chatted about making field notes and he discovered that the male and females of this species have quite different plumage. I counted the Bar-tailed Godwits and a Common Greenshank which was not too difficult. Just as we were finishing the count a White-bellied Sea-Eagle swept in putting the birds to flight in spectacular fashion. We could all see the unmistakable patterns of the avocets as they circled and dipped in order to confuse the eagle which eventually flew off in another direction. A Black-shouldered Kite came in later and again the birds dispersed, but I suspect the kite was after smaller prey as it hovered over the grassland.

It is interesting to note that the birds will tolerate our presence and remain at the southern end of the lagoon whilst we work on the opposite side. Since the tide was too high to pull mangroves, work centred around removing debris, mostly logs and branches from the beach. Peggy Svoboda visited us today to see how work was progressing and reminded us of the dangers of mosquitos which were out in numbers after the heavy rain.

Ann Lindsey

21st February

Once Ann arrived at the Stockton site, the Green Machine were prepared for any action to come. The morning started with some simple bird descriptions, then we were made to observe and count the diverse migratory birds in their natural habitat. The birds involved 30 Chestnut Teal, 10 Eastern Curlews, one Common Greenshank (bird of the week), one Little Pied Cormorant, five Pelicans, one White-faced Heron, two Little Egrets, one Black-shouldered Kite, four Rock Dove, one Golden-headed Cisticola. After this exciting experience the Green Machine can now identify and account for any changes that may affect the migratory birds' diversity over a period of time.

Sean Ploder and Allison Smith

22nd February

The Green Machine is now motivated to help revive this precious site to maintain the species for future generations. This mentally psychs the Team up and we went crazy. Mangroves were flying in every direction, mud was in everyone's face and people's backs were snapping in half. This day's work was to help clear the mangroves from the salt marsh so the migratory birds can see dangers early enough to escape predators. As well as mangrove removal, wood was cleared and acacias trimmed back to make a pathway. Mangroves were cleared using large mattocks to lift the roots out of the mud. Larger mangroves were cut using a handsaw and the rest of the Green Machine used tree loppers so that the people with mattocks could get to them more easily. Crabs went crazy. After Davie called it a day, we had a look back at what we had done and it's surprising what ten people can do working as a team. Birds will be happy.

Allison Smith and Sean Ploder

1st March

In the morning, as a group, we looked at different birds that were on the Sandspit. The birds that were seen were as follows:

Little Pied Cormorant -1, White-faced Heron - 2, Little Egret - 1, Australian White Ibis - 2 Royal Spoonbill - 4, Black-shouldered Kite - 1 Eastern Curlew - 246, Pied oystercatcher - 1, Black-winged Stilt - 12, Red-necked Avocet - 200, Masked Lapwing - 2.

Scot and Shane then went and started to pull out Juncus while the rest of the team pulled out unwanted mangroves. Chris Herbert helped us with

the mangroves. Anthony arrived and started to whippersnip Juncus. The tide was high so not too much more mangrove moving was done.

Clayton and Trent

14th March

Today was sunny with a light breeze. Birds observed were 2 White-faced Herons, 1 Australian White Ibis, 1 Royal Spoonbill, 80 Eastern Curlews, 225 Red-necked Avocets, 1 Gull-billed Tern, 5 Superb Fairy-wrens, 3 Australian Ravens, 10 Welcome Swallows, 15 Common Starlings. For the rest of the day Juncus was pulled out and we cut back the mangroves.

ATLASSING DAYS - THE PLAN

As you know the Birds Australia Atlas Project carries on for another year and this means that we too will carry on. We intend concentrating on woodland birds in areas where there has been limited coverage. This does mean travelling further sometimes and definitely getting up earlier. As you know, atlassers have discovered several new hot spots, e.g. Martindale and Kings Gap, and we expect to find a few more during the year. If you haven't been along as yet, you can take the opportunity in 2002 and join in the search. Below is a list of the dates and areas. *As always, you need to contact me on 4951 2008*

or Liz and Chris Herbert on 4959 3663 to confirm the time and venue. You can always arrange to meet up at a location more convenient to you.

April 20th Putty area. Meet Broke corner store 7.30am

June 22nd Sandy Hollow/Giants Creek. Meet Jerry's Plains Shop 7.30am

July 6th Yarrawa/Kings Gap area. Meet Jerry's Plains Shop 8am

August 24th Doyles Creek and Jones Reserve Road. Meet Jerry's Plains Shop 8am

November 23rd Ellerston area (weekend camp at Dickie Dans TSR). Meet 7am Maitland Railway Station

Ann Lindsey

A FANTASTIC WETLAND

At the change of each season I have been trudging out along the water pipeline which snakes its way

across Hexham Swamp since August 1998 to survey a given area and two two hectare sites for the Birds Australia Atlas Project. Mostly it has been fairly dull in terms of numbers of birds, but always excellent for grassbirds, cisticolas, raptors and a nesting pair of White-winged Trillers have cheered the hot summer months.

I chose to survey this area because I knew that the habitat would alter according to weather conditions and in the long term according to the results of the Hunter Catchment Management Trust's project to open the floodgates at Ironbark Creek. Today my persistence was rewarded. Due to the rains of the past months catchment runoff has pooled in the low areas of the Swamp with little or no evaporation. There is water everywhere. This has nothing to do with the floodgate project and the creeks are still contained within their banks.

Fisherman, Dennis Hirst, grew up in this area and, this morning, August 16th, I had a glimmer of the truth of his stories about a truly great wetland full of life. In my own time, this wetland has been full of cows and grass. But to the sound of croaking frogs, I walked my usual route bewitched by the numbers of waterbirds feeding calmly as I walked past in the wet, clear, phragmites-free areas of the Swamp. Black Swans were flying by the dozen to join those already feeding quietly, a flock of a hundred Pacific Black Ducks flew from one patch to another Yellow-billed and Royal Spoonbills swept the floor together - well, the Yellow-bills were not doing much sweeping - flocks of ibis filled the sky and best of all a brown-eyed, male Black-necked Stork landed on one of my two hectare sites.

I have been somewhat sceptical at claims that Hexham Swamp could be the "Kakadu of the South", but this morning I believe it.

Ann Lindsey

16th August, 2001

Keith Laverick, Nick Livanos and I chose to go to the northern end of Hexham Swamp this morning to atlas along the disused railway line. Due to record rains in February this year, the whole area was sloshing in water as far as the eye could see.

Once again we saw many hundreds of Teal, mostly Grey and some Chestnut, both sorts of ibis, 22 White-necked Herons, a hundred or so Black Swans, Royal Spoonbills. Then there were Superb Fairy-wrens, European Goldfinches, Golden-headed Cisticolas, Clamorous Reed-warblers. Birds everywhere. Fantastic.

Ann Lindsey

23rd February, 2002

Regent Honeyeater/ Swift Parrot Surveys 2001

Well, the time has come again for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot surveys. Ann Lindsey is the usual coordinator for this project through our club, but Ann has decided to hand the reigns over to me to try to emulate her great work. This year's survey will be held on 25-26 May and 3-4 August. These are the preferred weekends to do surveying to capture a 'snapshot' of where these birds roam. If you are not available on these weekends, weekdays or weekends before or after these dates are fine.

I urge all members of the Club to try and get involved in these surveys. It is an ongoing project that has been running for many years now and volunteer involvement is much appreciated.

Some areas to go searching for these birds are: Goulburn River N.P., Widden Valley-Baerami Valley, Howes Valley-Putty Road, and Wollombi-Cessnock. More detailed areas would be: the road between Pokolbin and Broke; White Box Camp; Ellalong area (both species have been regularly found here),

Wyee, Swansea, Cessnock State Forest and N.P. and the Myall Lakes region.

Habitats to search in our area would be: box-ironbark forests, riveroak woodland, spotted gum forests and swamp mahogany forests which can be found on the coastal strip.

Something else to consider is **The Regent Honeyeater/Swift Parrot Workshop** which will be held at **Cessnock on Saturday 29 June**. This is a great opportunity for all of us to learn a great deal more about these birds. The venue will be the **Rugby League Supporters Club**, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Light lunches and morning/afternoon teas are provided. (Optional drinks/dinner and more 'bird talk' at a pub TBA from 5.30 pm.)

The aim of the workshop is to provide feedback to surveyors and information and training to all would-be participants. All you need to bring are your binos and your enthusiasm!

For information about the surveys and details about the workshop, please contact: Steve Roderick, 4932 6727, or email roddo75@hotmail.com or at club nights. Let's get out there and tick 'em up!

Steve Roderick

Seaham bird hide opening

The bird hide overlooking the egret nesting area at Seaham Lagoon was officially opened on Sunday 17 March during the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the village. The lagoon, located at a

relatively busy road intersection, hosts hundreds of egrets in the September to November breeding season, as well as numerous other species and is well worth a visit. Alan Stuart represented HBOC which had generously donated funds towards the information boards in the hide.

Barren Grounds – What's on

A wardens life is never dull
Date : 19-21 April leader: Brendon Neilly

Rainforests of the Illawarra

Date : 26-28 April leader: Mark Robinson

Introduction to Botany

Date: 10-12 May Leaders: Lucy Nairn & Hannah Mcpherson Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Bird Banding Workshop

Date : 24-26 May leader : Alan Leishman

Raptors and rehabilitation

Date : 8 June leader: Peter Nolan.

Birds for Beginners

Date : 21-23 June leader: Brendon Neilly

Further information from:

Brendon Neilly

Barren Grounds Bird Observatory
PO Box 3 JAMBEROO 2533 Tel: 02 4236
0195 Fax: 02 4236 0537

Web: www.users.bigpond.com/barren_grounds

Email: barren_grounds@bigpond.com

A Great Way to Travel

Having been inspired by holding in my hands a Booted Racket-tail, a Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant, an Amazonian Umbrellabird and a Fulvous-shrieked Tanager, I decided to send this quick message to anyone in the club interested in travelling through South America. I have been in Ecuador for a bit over 3 months now and I have to say that the opportunities for volunteer work here is astounding. This includes opportunities for birdos. So far I have been involved in 3 separate projects. Two of them were simply compiling bird lists for Cloud Forest and Dry Tropical Forest reserves (how good is that!?) and the other was with the "Wings of the Americas" project. The latter involved mist-netting in the Equatorial Rainforests here.

In each case I had to make a small contribution (about \$5-\$6 Aus a day) which covered my accommodation and food. It may seem strange having to pay to do volunteer work but once you see how things work over here it is no problem at all and any leftover monies are usually spent on project funding. It's a great way to travel and sure beats getting off the 'gringo trail' here. Some basic Spanish is very helpful but not essential. Mine is very ordinary! The climate and living conditions are excellent (for me anyway) and the people are genuine and very friendly.

If anyone is interested in this sort of thing (ballpark chance, but just in case), then contact me at fred_barney_72@yahoo.com and I can line you up with something.

Mick Roderick

P.S - How's your form over there Brewers!!?

Lower Hunter River (NSW) Boat Trips and Yellow Wagtails

The first of two Lower Hunter River boat cruises to see the migratory waders on the Kooragang Dykes at high tide and to see the Kooragang mangrove wetlands was held yesterday (26/02/02) from 9-1200hrs organised by the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project (KWRP). About 30 people present and there were plenty of birds to see

see. On the dykes were at least 80 Black-tailed Godwits, 30 Knots, 20 Curlew Sandpipers, 600 Eastern Curlews, small numbers of Stilts, 2000+ Avocets, 1500+ Bar-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks, Golden Plover etc. Also seen were Night Heron, White-faced & Striated Herons, Royal Spoonbills, 100s of Pelicans, Crested, Caspian, Common & one White-winged Black Tern, a Common Sandpiper was seen along a bank, a peregrine

made a pass at the waders on the dykes, 2 Brown Goshawks, 5 Sea-eagles 7 2 Whistling kites were seen along the river, and more Eastern Curlew, Greenshank, Marsh sandpiper and Avocets were seen on some of the saltmarshes while c 20 Whimbrel were roosting in mangroves. At a cost of \$18 which included morning tea, it was a worthwhile morning.

After the ferry trip, at least 6 people went onto to Ash Island where they were successful in seeing at least 2 Yellow Wagtails on Wagtail Way!! One being very yellow. Also to be seen here are plenty of White-fronted Chats, 31 Golden Plover, plenty Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (but not the 1000+ on 22/2/02), Marsh Sandpipers and Greenshanks, and more Avocets and Stilts.

Alan Morris

Twitchathon 2001

The total received for Birds Australia's 2001 Twitchathon was \$14,000 (actually \$13,990.85 and I put in the \$9.15 to round it off nicely!) As I won the prize for the most money raised by an individual within NSW/ACT (that total being \$1345 - without the \$9.15 above), the rounding off is the least I could do for SNAG's 2001 Twitchathon! The Cumberland Bird Observers Club won the prize for the club whose members raised the most funds (\$3,566.30) and this prize

was presented to the Cumberland Club at its February meeting.

My sincerest thanks go to all Twitchathon friends, Cumberland Bird Observers Club, members of very many bird clubs and members of Birds Australia for helping us to establish such a fantastic seeding fund to get our Cowra woodlands project underway! It is one of those wonderful moments in a Twitchathon Coordinator's life!

Frances Czwalianna
Southern NSW & ACT Group, Birds Australia

Pelagic Trip Report **23 March 2002**

Departed 7.15am from Swansea weigh bridge. Returned 3.45pm. Sea Conditions: 1-1.5m swell early in day, easing slightly later in the day. Weather: Fine and sunny all day. Wind: 15knots Maximum distance from shore. 60km.

Those on board: Alan Stuart, Ann Lindsay, Graeme O'Conner, Mike Newman, David Geering, Nick Livanos, Alan Morris, Allan Benson, Robert Quinan, Craig Arms, David Brown, Phil Hansbro and Richard Baxter.

A good March pelagic with a couple of good birds seen. We departed Swansea at 7.15am and we were immediately confronted with a 1.5m swell coming in from the east.. We slowed our outward speed and crashed our way out to the 60km mark. The last 8 Newcastle pelagic trips have been in relatively flat conditions and this morning's trip out certainly ended our good run.

Not long after leaving Swansea we saw our first of many Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. These and a few Australasian Gannet were the only birds we saw in the first hour. Our journey east was interrupted about 30km offshore by a pale coloured shearwater seen well off in the distance. The bird was only briefly seen by two on board and not positively identified as a Streaked Shearwater. We continued out and as we crossed the shelf we were joined by our first Great-winged Petrel and shortly after a Pomerine Jaeger joined the many Wedge-tailed Shearwaters at the back of the boat. We continued east and eventually stopped 60km offshore at our primary chumming location.

It wasn't long before our first Hutton's Shearwater appeared, followed not long after by Providence Petrel and 20+ Flesh-footed Shearwater. Included in these was a very grey Providence Petrel which required further examination. Initially there were 6 Wilson's Storm Petrel around the boat, but after 1.5hrs at this location the number grew to 50-80 birds.

When looking down the slick it was carpeted in Wilson's Storm Petrels dancing along the top of the water and apart from the Wedge-tailed S/W, the Wilson's Storm Petrel was the second most abundant bird of the day. A further 30 minutes at this location yielded our first Long-tailed Jaeger of the day, which was a new bird for many on board as well as a new bird for the Hunter Region. A further 2-3 Long-tailed Jaeger appeared as well as a solitary White-faced Storm Petrel. It was just before we were about to leave that the best bird of the day appeared in the form of a GREY TERNLET. It flew near the boat on two occasions, coming within 50m and allowing all on board good views before we had to head for home. Our journey home was far more pleasant with the seas at our back.

Birds (unfortunately I was chumming all day, so the numbers below are only approximate).

- 73. Great-winged Petrel 3-5
- 971. Providence Petrel 3-5
- 63. Wilson's Storm Petrel 50-80

- 065 White-faced Storm Petrel 1
- 913. Hutton's Shearwater 2
- 72. Flesh-footed Shearwater 30+
- 69. Wedge-tailed Shearwater 100+
- 115. Crested Tern 2
- 129. Pomerine Jaeger 10
- 933. Long-tailed Jaeger 2-3
- 104. Australasian Gannet 8
- 982. GREY TERNLET 1

Mammals – 1 pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphin at 60km..

Other Critters – Several Dolphin fish and several Flying fish seen.

Newcastle Pelagic Trips are run by Richard Baxter and the Hunter Bird Observers Club and are non-profit outings for all those who wish to join us. Future dates are 20.7.02, 14.9.02, 12.10.02, 13.10.02, 16.11.02.

Richard Baxter

Pacific Baza

Pacific Bazas are an infrequent sighting on our property at Keimbah (half way between Maitland and Cessnock). The first Baza chased sighted on our property this year was being from behind the house by Willy Wagtails, in late November. Two Bazas were later seen around the front of the house and they constructed a nest in an almost horizontal fork in an ironbark tree close to the house. A bird was seen to be sitting for about two weeks, with the partner occasionally present.

On 28/12/2001 whilst I was away my 18 year old son was drawn to investigate a loud ruckus outside. He observed 3 to 4 Magpies pinning down a Baza on its back on the ground and attacking it forcefully. He noted another half a dozen Magpies above, flying around and in the tree. He disturbed the birds on the ground and the Baza flew up into the tree and survived. Once the Baza had flown it started calling with a two note call, which he remembered easily because it sounded like "Thank you", the first note being higher than the second, which was

longer and varied and downward in pitch. It should be noted that for two weeks the birds had been very quiet with only a soft "tch, tch, tch....." call, which was heard only infrequently. This was a distinctly different call.

When I observed the scene later in the afternoon, the Baza's nest was completely gone. No trace at all was left in the tree, and nothing recognizable on the ground. I found the remains of two eggs beneath the tree and a dead chick, which otherwise looked as though it had been healthy.

There was a Baza flight feather on the ground as well as some body feathers in one location not far from the tree. This bird (distinguishable by two missing primaries and not being scared off by my proximity) was observed over the next two days, and the "Thank you" call was occasionally heard. A different bird (presumably the mate) was spotted on 31/12/2001 not far away.

It is interesting to note that the Magpies appeared to tolerate the nesting pair up until this date. By delaying their attack they may have prevented the Bazas from producing young this year.

The Magpies themselves had finished nesting some weeks before, and had two young, well and truly fledged.

There had been no other sighting of this number of Magpies together, as a flock, on the property this year.

John Goswell

Nesting boxes

Newcastle Wildflower Nursery, Lake Road, Wallsend, has a good selection of well-constructed hollow log nest boxes, which are quite reasonably priced. A suitable Rosella-sized box sells for \$19.95 – prices then rise up to a very large Masked Owl box.

Recoveries of banded birds

The following records appeared in *Corella*, June 2001 (“oldest” means longest time since original banding for that species; “furthest” means furthest distance from the banding place):

Australian Brush-turkey. Banded near Yarraman, Qld, and recaptured 3km away, 11 years 11 months later. Oldest.

Cape Barren Goose. Banded at Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Is, SA, recaptured there 18 years later. Oldest.

Shy Albatross. Banded in Tasmania and recovered dead at Victor Harbour, SA, 1,122 km NW and 18 years 9 months later. Oldest.

Bar-tailed Godwit. Banded in Victoria and seen in Alaska 10 years 5 months later, and 12,199 kms NNE. Furthest.

Sanderling. A bird weighing about 50gms. Banded in Victoria and seen in Russia 18 months later and 12,623 km N. Furthest.

Western Corella. Banded at Kirwan, WA and recovered shot dead at Dalwallinu, WA 23 years 2 months later and 55 km ESE. Furthest and oldest.

Yellow thornbill. Banded at Mt Annan, NSW, recaptured at the same place for the 3rd time, 13 years 4 months later. Oldest.

White-plumed honeyeater. Banded at Munghorn Gap, NSW and recaptured at same place for the 6th time, 9 years 9 months later.

Grey-crowned babbler. Banded at Windera, Qld, and recovered dead at Murgon, Qld, 3 years 2 months later and 25 km SSE. Furthest.

House sparrow. Banded at Two Wells SA and recovered dead at Kilkenny, SA 2 years 8 months later and 32 km S. Furthest.

From the November 2000 issue of “Albatross”, a special recovery. A **Wandering Albatross** banded off Malabar in 1959, recaptured 18 times off Ballambi, the most recent in July 2000. This is the NSWASG’s oldest known albatross, at least 41 years but estimated to be closer to 50 years.

Building a new home

John Robinson, from Strathfieldsaye, south of Bendigo, has set a new standard for farmers. At a cost of nearly \$3,000 John has relocated a large fallen tree on his property, and created an apartment block for local hollow-dependent fauna. He improved existing holes in the tree with silicone and natural timber, and created new hollows.

Since then he has seen the following species either nesting or sheltering in different hollows in his tree: Sacred Kingfisher, Musk Lorikeet, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Eastern Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Cockatiel, Galah, Kookaburra, Striated Pardalote, Sugar Glider, Yellow-footed Antechinus, Lesser Long-eared Bat, White-striped Freetail-bat and Little Freetail-bat.

Source: The Bird Observer, Dec. 2001, No.815

Oolambeyan Station

The NPWS has purchased a large property, Oolambeyan Station, on the Hay Plain near Carrathool. The Hay Plain hosts the largest remaining population of the endangered Plains-wanderer, which is effectively extinct in SW Victoria, SE S.A., E NSW and SE Queensland. The total population varies from 8,000 in good years down to 2,500 after years of lower than average rainfall. At nearly 22,000 hectares Oolambeyan NP will safeguard important habitat and the park management will primarily focus on conservation of the Plains-wanderer.

Source: The Bird Observer, Feb. 2002, No.816

What an excuse to support the good guys!

Wetland Care Australia and Landcare Australia are long-standing recipients of financial contributions made to the Australian environment from sales of **Banrock Station** wines. The station, in the Riverland region of SA, also helps fund programs in a number of other countries. In February the Station announced that its contributions to wetland conservation had topped the \$1million mark.

Speaking on World Wetlands Day, the Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre Manager said

"We are talking environmental stewardship and we want Banrock Station to be recognised as the most environmentally conscious and supportive wine company in the world."

Source: Wetlands Australia, Feb. 2002

Little Terns on the South Coast

There were major Little Tern nesting sites at a number of locations on the NSW south coast this summer.

Lake Wollumboola: of 95 nesting attempts, 42 failed (23 due to a fox, despite an 8-strand electric fence around the site). 47 chicks have been banded. This site has been actively managed since 1996 and the number of birds nesting has increased significantly. Many of the new birds breeding are returning to their hatching site.

Lake Conjola: 7 nests, each with 2 eggs, but all located outside the fenced area. There have been losses due to big seas washing over the sand spit. Local volunteers have erected a new temporary fence and raised some of the nests above wave height.

South Tuross Heads: 9 nests amongst the sand dunes but all were lost to fox predation. 11 additional nests on a low-lying sandspit were all lost to inundation.

Brown Lake: In October the Lake was artificially opened to the sea for the first time for 8 years. Little Terns had not bred in this area for a similar period, but by the end of November there were 48 nests. Then, in mid-December, enormous sea swells wiped out all but 2 chicks and 5 nests, which had been elevated on sandbags by volunteers. Within a week new nests appeared, building up to 38, most of which were elevated. However, on 2 January the colony was again inundated with only 2 chicks surviving.

Wallaga Lake: eggs from 15 nests were all lost due to inundation, a fox and an unknown bird predator (Raven or Silver Gull?) However, within a week, 46 new eggs appeared!

Bega Rivermouth: successful breeding due to close monitoring of foxes by council rangers, an electric fence, sanbagging and the watchful eyes of over 50

dedicated volunteers. By late January there were 7 fledglings, about 20 runners, several newly-hatched chicks, plus 4 active nests! One nest was trampled by a horse. A dead banded bird was found to have hatched near Forster.

Source: South Coast Shorebird Recovery Newsletter, Jan 2002

More on Little Terns....

A violent hailstorm ripped through East Gippsland in the early hours of Christmas Eve, 2001. On the following day an inspection of the Little Tern colony at Lake Tyers revealed a scene of total devastation. 35 adult Little Terns in breeding plumage were dead on the ground, some still sheltering eggs or chicks. 27 chicks were found dead. In addition, dead Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing, Fairy Tern, Grey Fantail, Horsfields Bronze-cuckoo, Eastern Yellow Robin and Yellow-faced Honeyeater were found. Swans and Silver Gulls were seen with head injuries. The loss of 35 breeding Little Terns represents at least 20% of the total population visiting Victoria.

Source: South Coast Birdwatchers Newsletter, Jan/Feb.2002

Hooded Plovers

The range of Hooded Plovers appears to be contracting southwards. Surveys of all beaches in NSW in 1988 and in 2000 revealed respectively 60 and 46 adult birds. They now appear to be confined to south of Sussex Inlet. Despite extensive monitoring and fencing of nest sites this summer losses have been heavy. The birds are, however, persistent, some making up to 4 nesting attempts. About 7 chicks are believed to have fledged.

Hexham Swamp Project

420 hectares of privately-owned farmland has been purchased as part of the Hexham Swamp Project. 30 years ago, 8 floodgates were installed at the mouth of Ironbark Creek. Their operation decreased tidal inundation and allowed grazing to expand. Large areas of mangrove and saltmarsh were replaced by meadow and reed communities. The diversity of bird species fell markedly and weeds and pests thrived.

The project aims to open the floodgates to allow increased tidal flushing and enhance the estuarine wetland habitat, creating valuable nurseries for fish and prawns, and feeding areas for birds.

The project will cost \$6.5m, funded by the Hunter Catchment Trust, and the Commonwealth and NSW governments, which have each committed \$2.7m.

Source: *Wetlands Australia*, Feb. 2002

Cowra woodland birds program

Reversing the decline of the Cowra woodland birds



Birds Australia is currently working with other organisations and local landholders with the aim of reversing the decline of woodland birds in the Cowra district. Most (70-90%) of the western slopes and plains of NSW have been cleared of pre-European native vegetation. Most of the birds have cleared out too. A few, like the galah, Australian magpie and noisy miner, have benefited from the gross changes to the landscape. However, many other species have declined or disappeared locally, for example the grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, speckled warbler, diamond firetail, black-chinned honeyeater, brown treecreeper. An important question for conservation is how to restore native vegetation across parts of the landscape to achieve something like the pre-European state of native bird diversity and natural ecosystems.

The Cowra Woodland Birds Program is developing a portfolio of projects to help reverse the decline of woodland birds. The projects will focus on scientific research and the management of birds in their woodland habitats and will involve participation of *Birds Australia* members. Importantly, the projects will focus on local community ownership and involvement. Would you like further information? Can you recommend sites? Are you interested in doing bird surveys? Would you like to contribute in any other way?

CONTACTS

- *Cressida Wilson Project Officer Mobile 0415221830 email quoll_cress@hotmail.com*
- *Jean Clarke & Jack Baker Convenors Cowra Woodland Birds Program Steering Committee Tel 02 4284 5740 email bakerclarkes@bigpond.com*
- *Birds Australia (Southern NSW & ACT Group) Tel 02 9436 0388 email rosella63@bigpond.com*



What is Birds Australia's Outback Twitchathon?

The idea behind the race is for people to form into teams (minimum number per team - 2 people), and go out into **outback Australia** and find as many species of birds as possible in the 36 hour period described below. Each member of the team is encouraged to find sponsorship from friends, family, colleagues or corporations for each species of bird seen or heard by the team, or to find straight out donations for the team. There are great prizes to be won, including a prize for the most funds raised by an individual member of the team!

Dates and time: Any 36 hour period commencing at 6 a.m. on the first day and ending at 6 p.m. on the second day between Saturday 27 July and Sunday 18 August, 2002. (Preferably the week-end of 27/28 July if possible)

Where? You can start and finish in any part of arid Australia! We'll send you an arid Australia map.

What do you need to do Just register a team for the race by contacting our Sydney office, details of which are below. An Outback Twitchathon Kit will be sent to you. (Registration to be received by **21 July, 2002**). For further information contact : Birds Australia, P.O. Box 1322, Crows Nest, 1585 Tel/Fax 02 9436 0388 Email: rosella63@bigpond.com

OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2002

2001				
Oct 12	Australian Ringneck	1	Awabakal Reserve Redhead.	J. Grebert
Oct 22	Spotless Crane	6	Gloucester	A Morris
	Australian Spotted Crane	4	" Dairy Factory	"
	Australasian Bittern	1	Polblue Swamp	"
Oct 21	Olive Whistler	1	"	"
Oct 20	Olive Whistler	1	Gloucester Falls	"
Oct 20	Powerful Owl	1	Near Wallarobba	T.Jurd
	Southern Emu-wren	2	"	"
Nov. 7	Peregrine Falcon	2	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
Nov. 8	Black Falcon	1	"	"
Nov 10	Western Gerygone	2	"	"
Nov 23	Baillon's Crane	1	Morpeth	A.Lindsey
	Regent Bowerbird	2	"	"
Nov 17	Spectacled Monarch	2	Barrington Guest House	P.Freeman
	Bassian Thrush	1	"	"
	Russet-tailed Thrush	1	"	"
Nov 29	Royal Spoonbill nesting	4+ 1 dy	Morisset	R.Walker
Nov 30	Black-necked Stork	Pr	Ash Island	A.Morris
	Great Egret	105	"	"
	Intermediate Egret	13	"	"
	Black-winged Stilt	177	"	"
	Banded Stilt	1	"	"
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	497	"	"
	Red-necked Stint	29	"	"
	Red Knot	4	"	"
	Common Greenshank	7	"	"
	Marsh Sandpiper	43	"	"
	Curlew Sandpiper	24	"	"
	Powerful Owl roadkill	1	Palmers Ck. [Toronto]	"
Nov 30	Square-tailed Kite	2	Green Hills [East Maitland]	M.Maddock
Nov 30	Masked Owl	1		
Dec 8	Glossy Black Cockatoo	4	Fingal Bay Foreshore	N.Fraser
Dec 21	Australian Shelduck	2	BHP Pond [Ash Is]	F. van Gessel
	Marsh Sandpiper	>60	Ash Island	"
Nov 17	Diamond Firetail	1	Dawsons Hill [Singleton]	T.Jurd
	Rufous Songlark	2	"	"
Dec 15	Southern Emu-wren	2	"	"
Dec 7	Spotted Harrier	1	Martindale	P. Freeman
Dec 26	Rufous Songlark	4	"	"
	Unidentified Thrush sp	1	"	"
	Forest Raven	1	"	"
	Red-necked Stint	>60	"	"
	Marsh Sandpiper	1	"	"
Dec 29	Red-kneed Dotterel	5	Irrawang Swamp	M.Maddock
Dec 14	Great Crested Grebe	9	Grahamstown Dam	"
Dec 10/14	Brown Thornbill	3	S.W.C.	A.Lindsey
Dec 26	Glossy Ibis	16	Pambalong N.R.	"
Dec 27	Freckled Duck	3	S.W.C.	"
	Glossy Ibis	9	S.W.C.	"
Dec 28	Spotted Harrier	1	Bolwarra	A.Stuart
	Little Raven	10	Moonan Brook	"
	Superb Lyrebird	3	Stewarts Brook S.F.	"
	Bassian Thrush	2	"	"
Dec 17	Golden-headed Cisticola	5	Gloucester Township	B.McKay
	Clamorous Reed Warbler	5	"	"
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	10	Gloucester [River Park]	"
Dec 21	Black-necked Stork	2	Gloucester [Dairy Factory]	"
Dec 23	Red-rumped Parrot	50	Gloucester [Dairy Factory]	B.McKay
Dec 27	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Kia Ora - Gloucester	"
Dec 23	Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	Fingal Bay Foreshore	N.Fraser

Dec	Pacific Baza Nest	2	Keinbah [off Majors Lane]	J.Goswell
Dec	Wedge-tailed Eagle	2+1 dy	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
Dec 26	Red-necked Avocet	3	Bolwarra STW	H.Tarrant
2002				
Jan	Black-necked Stork	1	Thornton	D. Biddle
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	30	Malabula	R. Thompson
Jan 4	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	6	Stockton Borehole	R. Walker
	Bar-tailed Godwit	1	"	"
Jan 31	Red-footed Booby	1	Nobby's [beachwashed	T.O'Donnell
Jan 2	Spotted Harrier	1	Ash Island	A.Lindsey
Jan 3	Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	Gloucester Township	B.McKay
	Australian Hobby	1	"	"
Jan 16	Dollarbird	4	Jesmond	G.Brosie
Jan 18	White-throated Needletail	70	"	"
Jan 27	White-throated Nightjar	2	Appletree Flat "Wongalee"	A.Lindsey
	Masked Owl	1	"	"
	Rockwarbler	3-4	"	"
Jan 2	Little Egret	10	Long Pond - Kooragang Island	"
Jan 25	Pink-eared Duck	2	S.W.C.	"
Jan 21	Russet-tailed Thrush	2	Allyn River	"
Jan 3	Bassian Thrush	1	Stockrington	"
Jan 28	Hooded Robin	2	Medhurst Bridge - Martindale	"
Jan 27	Diamond Firetail	4	"	"
Jan	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	3-4	New Lambton	A. Stuart
Jan 7	Australian Spotted Crane	2	Lenaghans Drive	D.Jenkin
	"	3	Ash Island	"
Jan 21	Freckled Duck	1	Lenaghans Drive	"
Jan 27	Baillon's Crane	2	Walka Water Works	"
	Australian Spotted Crane	3	"	"
	Tawny Grassbird	1	"	"
	Little Grassbird	5	"	"
	Common Blackbird	1f.	Maitland	"
Jan 10	Red-backed Fairy-wren	2	Fosterton Loop Rd. Dungog	"
Jan 28	Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	Owens Gap [32°2'21"/150°42'22"]	G.Newling
Jan 13	Figbird	2+1juv	Muswellbrook	"
Jan 20	Pheasant Coucal	1	Bulga	"
Jan 14	Black Mite	1	Scone	"
Jan 15	Wedge-tailed Eagle	5	Bayswater Colliery	"
Jan 16	Rainbow Bee-eater	31	Wingen Village	"
Jan 12	Nankeen Night Heron	2	"	"
Jan 16	Brush Cuckoo	1	S.W.C.	"
Jan 12	Figbird	4	Singleton	"
Jan	Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	Tomaree N.P.	N.Fraser
Jan 19	White-winged Chough	12	Charlestown	G.Weber
Jan 19	Brush Bronzewing	1	Myall Lakes N.p>	S.Roderick
Jan 20	Great Knot	1	Stockton Beach [Birubi end]	"
Jan 29	Eastern Whipbird	2	Highfields	M.Burgoyne
	Eastern Yellow Robin	1	"	"
	Silveryeye	>4	"	"
	Rufous Fantail	1	"	"
	Rufous Whistler	2	"	"
	Lewin's Honeyeater	2	"	"
Jan 3	Brown Quail	4	Wallsend	C.Goodenough
Feb 12	Striated Thornbill	2	Whitebridge	"
Feb 10-13	Common Kestrel	1imm	Jesmond	G.Brosie
Jan 20	White-necked Heron	4	Gloucester	B.McKay
Jan 5	Royal Spoonbill	2	"	"
Jan 11	Brown Cuckoo-dove	2	Gloucester	B.McKay
Jan 16	Black-shouldered Kite	1	"	"
Feb 2	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	14	"	"
Feb 4	Nankeen Night Heron	1	"	"
Jan 13	Tree Martin	>500	Morpeth STW	M.Newman
Jan 5	Banded Lapwing	9	Largs [32°43/151°35']	"
	Zebra Finch	2	"	"

Jan 13	Baillon's Crake	1	Morpeth Manor [32°44'/1514/9/0237]	"
Jan 15	Red-backed Fairy-wren	3	Warakeila [32°15'/151°31']	"
	Southern Emu-wren	2	"	"
Jan 30	Hardhead	14	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
	Pink-cared Duck	10	"	"
	Eurasian Coot	~250	"	"
	Australasian Shoveler	8	"	"
	Black Swan	22	"	"
Feb 1	White-throated Needletail	~30	"	"
Feb 12	Rainbow Bee-eater	12	Wingen	"
Feb 13	Barn Owl	2	Mt. Arthur North	"
Feb 12	Plumed Whistling Duck	~12	Doughboy Hollow [Singleton]	"
Jan 1	Clamorous Reed Warbler	1	Woodberry [garden]	R. & J. Smith
Jan 20	Australian Hobby	1	"	"
Jan 18	Brown Treecreeper	2	Tomalpin	C.Anderson
	Black-chinned Honeyeater	>6	"	"
	Spotted Quail-thrush	2 x 1	"	"
Feb 15	White-winged Triller breeding	2	Hexham N.R.	A.Lindsey
Feb 20	Spangled Drongo	1	Shortland [garden]	"
Mar 3	Rufous Fantail	1	"	"
Mar 13	Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	Seaham	J.Smith
Feb 26	Swamp Harrier	1	Raymond Terrace	"
Mar 13	Australian Hobby	1	Beresfield	"
Feb 26	Blue-faced Honeyeater	8	Rutherford High School	J.Smart
Feb 15/16	White-throated Nightjar	2	Violet Hill - MLNP	P. & M. Chegwiddden
Feb 7	Brown Quail	4	S.W.C.	P.Lightfoot
Feb 22	Common Tern	210	N'cle Harbour shipping channel	K.Laverick
	Sooty Oystercatcher	12	Shortland Esplanade -N'cle Foreshore	"
	Short-tailed Shearwater	500	"	"
Jan 13	Black-headed Mannikin	1	Redhead foreshore dunes	"
Mar 9	Common Tern	58	N'cle Harbour shipping channel	"
Mar 11	Black-headed Mannikin	1	Redhead foreshore dunes	"
Feb 19	Spangled Drongo	1	Jesmond	G.Brosie
Feb 28	Dollarbird	12+	"	"
Mar 4	White-necked Heron	7	Tarro [New England H'way]	"
Mar 4	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	2+1juv	East Maitland	"
Mar 9	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Lambton	"
Mar 13	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	Broadmeadow	P.Pountney
Mar 5/6	Hardhead	>100	Myall Lakes	F.Thomson
Mar 8	Southern Boobook	1	Wangi reserve	"
Mar 12	Buff-banded Rail	2	Ash Island	P.Hansbro
	Spotted Crake	4	"	"
	Red-kneed Dotterel	6	"	"
Mar 11	Great Crested Grebe Nest	12	Glenbawn Dam	M.Dedman
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	12	Branxton	"
Mar 10	White-bellied Sea-eagle	2imm	East Maitland	P. McLauchlan
Mar 5	Spangled Drongo	1	Warners Bay	L.Ernst
Mar 10	Square-tailed Kite	1	East Maitland	S.Roderick
Mar 9	Ruff	1	Ash Island	"
Mar 7/8	Yellow Wagtail	1	"	"
Mar 10	Double-banded Plover	2	"	"
Mar 5	Little Penguin	40-50	Cabbage Tree Island	S.Roderick
	Arctic Jaeger	1	"	"
Mar	White-necked Heron	6-8	Tarro	H.Tarrant
Feb 16	Hooded Robin	2m+1f	Denman	"
	Diamond Firetail	3	Jerry's Plains	"
Mar 9	Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	Bunnan	"
	Blue-faced Honeyeater		Merriwa	"
Mar 10	Brown Falcon	3	Merriwa to GRNP	"
	Diamond Firetail	2	"	"
Mar 10	Stubble Quail [heard calling]		Lee's Pinch GRNP	"
Mar 2	Whimbrel		Swan Bay	"

Coming Events

Please check with the contact person for each outing, in case of changed details or suitability of site for the camp or field day

Date	Activity	Time and Place	Contact
Saturday 13 April	Hunter Wader Survey	8.30 am Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Saturday 20 April	Atlassing	7.30 am Putty area. Meet Broke corner store	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 Chris or Liz Herbert, 4959 3663
Sunday 21 April	Field Outing Millfield	8.00 am McDonalds car park, Cessnock	Leader: Alan Stuart, 4952 8569 Host: Margaret & John Corcoran
Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 April	Camp Woko National Park (north of Gloucester)	Any time from 25 April. HBOC Camp Fee plus NPWS fee, if collected	Contact: Tom Clarke, 4951 3872
Tuesday 7 May	Midweek Outing Wye Point	8.00 am 36 Bay St Wye Point	Leader: Don Moon 4959 1670
Wednesday 8 May	Club Night	7.30 pm. Shortland Wetlands Centre	Speaker: TBA
Saturday 11 May	Hunter Wader Survey	7.30am. Various locations as directed.	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Saturday 18 May	Atlassing	TBA	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008
Sunday 19 May	Field Outing Wyong	8:00am McDonalds car park, Tuggerah	Contact: Chris Herbert 4959 3663
Tuesday 4 June	Midweek Outing Edgeworth Sewage Works/Stockton Borehole	Park, end of Garth St, Nr. Cockle Creek, Edgeworth	Leader: Keith Laverick 4947 1304
Saturday 9 June	Pelagic Trip	7:00am. Swansea wharf near RSL Club, Chalmers St, Swansea.	Richard Baxter 4954 0212 randrbaxter@yahoo.com
Saturday – Monday 8 – 10 June	Camp at “Bootawah”, Tinonee		Liz Herbert 4959 3663 Host: Ted Wilson
Wednesday 12 June	Club Night	7.30 pm. Shortland Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Mike Newman – Birds Australia Atlas

Apology:

We apologise to readers for the 2 gaps in the last newsletter – photos, kindly supplied to the Editor by Di Johnson, somehow vanished en route to the newsletter printer over the Christmas period.